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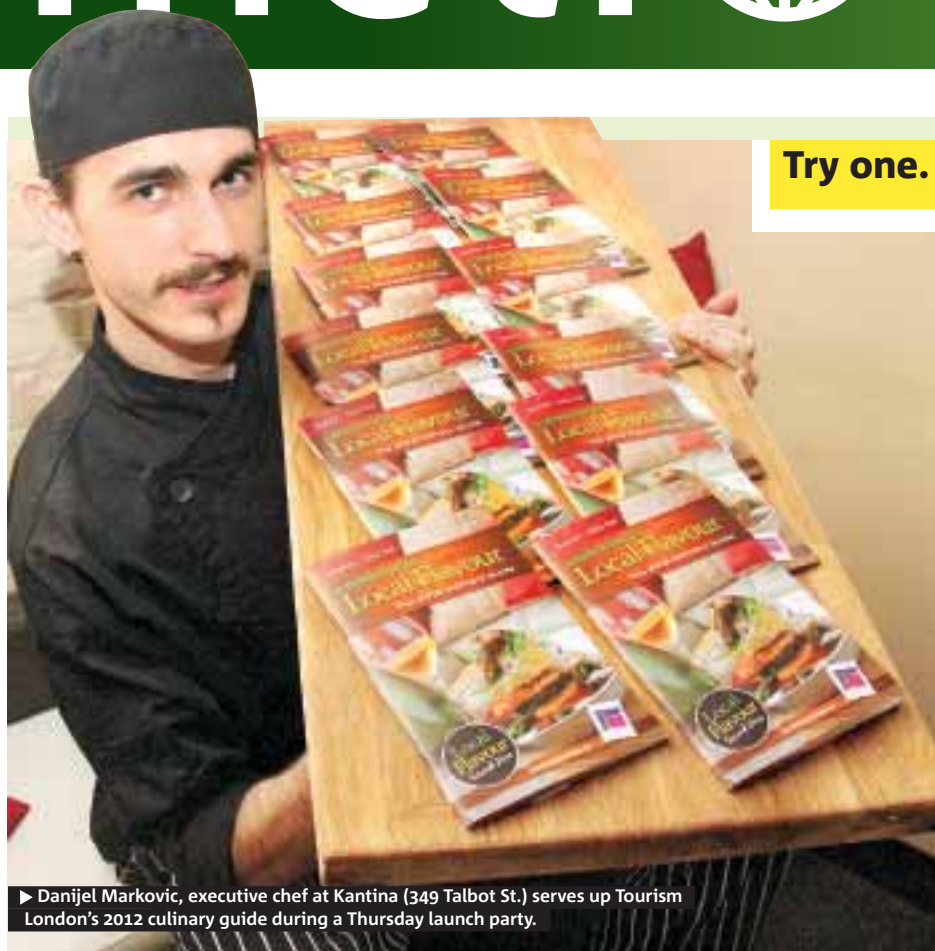
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► Danijel Markovic, executive chef at Kantina (349 Talbot St.) serves up Tourism London's 2012 culinary guide during a Thursday launch party.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Local flavour bursting from food guide

The guide, titled London's Local Flavour, features one of Markovic's dishes on the cover and focuses on culinary hot spots serving local products. While the guide is aimed at culinary tourists, it's free for the taking at a variety of venues, including downtown hotels, Tourism London's offices and libraries. Check it out online at eatdrink.ca.

Joblessness likely to remain 'too high': LEDC

► Layoffs from past months may be balanced by seasonal hiring, official says

Make no mistake — local leaders weren't planning a victory party in advance of Statistics Canada's latest unemployment data. But they also weren't downplaying the city's struggles.

"We don't anticipate there's going to be a drastic change in the numbers," Peter White, head of the London Economic Development Corp. said Thursday. "(An unemployment rate of) nine, 9.5, 9.8 per cent — it's too high.

"But I don't think we want to get too focused on (the negative)."

White was even holding out hope that the number of jobless workers counted in December would hold steady, thanks partial-

**9.8% November
unemployment
rate in London area.**

ly to an uptick in holiday hiring. More important, White said, will be the year-end labour-force survey released sometime this spring.

While month-over-month data, which saw the London-area jobless rate increase in late summer and fall, is an indicator of what's happening, end-of-year reports give a better look at overall trends.

No word yet on what those trends might be, but White doesn't necessarily buy into reports that companies are posting fewer positions on job boards. ● ANGELA MULLINS



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A U.K. MP at the centre of a Twitter-spawned storm gets a furious phone call from her party leader on live TV. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Compassion shown for Electro-Motive pickets

► Oxford Street plant remains idled ► Rumours of replacement workers unfounded ► No new bargaining talks scheduled as lockout nears one week

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO



► Locked out Canadian Auto Workers and their supporters hold the picket line Thursday morning outside Electro-Motive Diesel (2021 Oxford St. E.). The picket started Monday after workers, whose contract expired Dec. 31., were locked out of the plant late Sunday. Many are expecting the picket to continue for weeks if not months. No new bargaining talks are scheduled with the company, a subsidiary of U.S.-based Caterpillar.



ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Donating wood for fires, delivering coffee and keeping a physical presence in below-freezing temperatures are just a few of the ways people are pitching in to support Electro-Motive Diesel workers.

In some cases, it's hard to tell who's who on the picket line outside the plant: Locked out Canadian Auto Workers or advocates for their cause.

From supporting gay pride events to raising money for the United Way, the CAW does "so much for this community," said Michelle Boyce, a local LGBT advocate.

"We need them here," Boyce said as she walked the picket line Thursday morning.

Since the lockout started late Sunday, the day after a contract for workers expired, people showing support have ranged from provincial labour leaders to city councillors.

Affected workers

► 450: Estimated number of Canadian Auto Workers locked out of Electro-Motive plant.

► 250: Estimated number of non-union workers at the facility.

The backing has been "fabulous," workers said, but not unexpected.

Several said the picket reaches far beyond the dispute with U.S.-based Caterpillar, Electro-Motive's

parent company. Caterpillar's latest contract offer — which union officials say included a 55 per cent wage cut and other concessions — is a prime example of "corporate greed," some said.

If union wages can be cut in half, why not go ahead and roll back minimum wage, said Paul Dona of Ingersoll, a six-year Electro-Motive employee.

"It's not just about the union," said Dona. "It's about the ... whole country. Where the hell's it stop?"

Tuition rebate offered for some

Ontario students looking for a break on the cost of their tuition can start clicking. The Liberal government is making good on a campaign promise to take 30 per cent off the average cost of tuition.

More than 300,000 undergraduate students are eligible for the new grant this year, and as of Thursday they could apply on the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities website. Students enrolled in the Ontario Student Assistance Program will be automatically considered and don't have to apply.

The province says university or college degree students will save \$1,600 over a full school year, while college diploma and certificate students will save \$730.

With this school year half over already, the savings will be \$800 and \$365 respectively for the second semester. To qualify for the grant, students must be less than four years out of high school and their parents' gross income can't surpass \$160,000.

Opposition parties and the Canadian Federation of Students say the Liberals should reduce tuition fees for everyone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vandalism at school causes \$100K in damages

London police arrested two 16-year-old boys in connection to a costly break-in at John Paul Secondary School on Monday.

Officers say two males went into the school on Oxford Street East just before 11 p.m. They allege the duo damaged windows, doors and other property in the facility.

Police estimate the damage to be about \$100,000.

Officers say they arrested two teenagers the next day. Each youth faces break-and-enter charges.

AM980/AM980.CA

Advocate calls for help in labour dispute

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS/FILE



► PM Stephen Harper in the cabin of an engine at Electro-Motive Diesel in 2008.

The federal government's lack of action in the Electro-Motive Diesel contract dispute is "simply shameful and unacceptable," a labour advocate said Thursday morning.

Patti Dalton, president of the London and District Labour Council, called Prime Minister Stephen Harper, along with local MPs Ed Holder and Susan Truppe, to task, saying federal officials should at least demand that company offi-

cials bargain in good faith. Truppe and others have said the federal government has no role in the affairs of private industry.

Harper used Electro-Motive as a backdrop to tout business tax breaks in 2008, showcasing a \$5-million federal tax break for buyers of the locomotive-maker's wares and a wider \$1-billion tax break on industrial capital investment.

Meanwhile, the situation is getting some atten-

tion from Queen's Park. Premier Dalton McGuinty, speaking Thursday in Waterloo, said his government will provide a mediator to bring workers and the company back to the table.

In a statement Thursday, Mayor Joe Fontana said he hoped the two sides would begin a new dialogue soon and that he was optimistic an agreement can be reached.

ANGELA MULLINS/WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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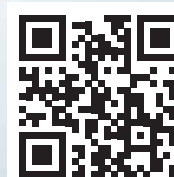
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Store. Closure



► Sue Glass is shown Thursday outside her longtime downtown business, Commander Salamander, at 360 Talbot St.

See ya later, Salamander

Sue Glass is closing the quirky pop-culture store after a blowout sale Friday to Sunday. The idea for the store, which opened in 1998, has simply run its course, Glass said. In the meantime, Glass plans to give her next-door business, Frilly Lizard, a makeover and move it to the Commander Salamander space in February. Once the transition is made, Glass plans to sublet the extra storefront. Glass' third retail store, Lolita (533 Richmond St.), is staying put.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Knights pass tough test

► Team playing well without some big guns ► 'Guys have taken initiative and provided critical minutes,' says assistant coach Misha Donskov



MIKE ARSENAULT
LONDON@METRONWS.CA

Having players selected to participate in international tournaments is a great achievement for any junior hockey club. Having to wade through a number of games without the services of those top-tier players is not as enjoyable.

However, the Knights didn't miss a beat as they went 4-1 in a five-game stretch with a handful of players away at the World Junior Hockey Championship and the under-17 world hockey challenge.

Defencemen Jarred Tinordi, Scott Harrington, and Olli Maatta were in Calgary for the world juniors, while forwards Max Domi and Bo Horvat were in Windsor for the U-17 tournament.

"It shows the depth of our team," said assistant coach Misha Donskov before the second leg of London's three-game northern Ontario swing. "Chase Hatcher has done a good job on the back end. He doesn't play back there a lot, but we moved him back there and he's stepped up."



► Chase Hatcher

"It felt great to be playing more," the 17-year-old Hatcher said. "The goal was to go out there and try to get a spot (for the stretch

run and playoffs)."

Though the team has played well, the returnees can breathe easy knowing their regular minutes will be waiting when they return.

The chance of a Lou Gehrig-replacing-Wally Pipp situation happening in the Forest City is highly unlikely.

"The guys coming back are established players — elite players," Donskov said. "We'll go with (them)."

"But (the young kids) certainly proved themselves, and they could be a consistent staple in the lineup."

CONTRIBUTED

London, Erie swap players, picks

The London Knights and Erie Otters have completed a five-player trade.

Coming to London: Centre Greg McKegg, defenceman Brett Cook and

goaltender Tyson Teichmann.

The Knights have sent blue-liner Troy Donnay, centre Dane Fox and two second-round draft selections

to the Otters.

Erie gets Sudbury's previously acquired second-round pick this year and London's pick in 2016.

● METRO



► Troy Donnay

Premier vows to protect core services

Core public services such as health care and education will remain top funding priorities as Ontario makes deep cuts to trim its \$16-billion deficit, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Thursday.

Economist Don Drummond has signalled he will make some difficult and unpopular recommendations in his review of the province's public services, suggesting spending cuts as deep as 30 per cent in some ministries.

But speaking at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, McGuinty suggested the Liberal government will not follow through on all of the several hundred recommendations Drummond is expected to make this month in a report.

"Mr. Drummond's responsibility, of course, is to advise, and ours is to decide, so there's a distinction," said McGuinty.

The Progressive Conservatives said they have no

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO FILE



"We will do everything we can to

protect our health care, protect our education and put in place the kind of measures that can support a stronger and growing economy."

PREMIER DALTON MCGUINTY

confidence that McGuinty will make the spending cuts that Drummond is expected to recommend.

"We don't have any inclination to believe that Dalton McGuinty ... is going to make the tough decisions necessary to get our fiscal situation back in line," said Opposition critic Rob Leone. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weekend premiere for locally made film

A plethora of London actors will get face time on a big screen Saturday.

Rainbow Cinemas is hosting the premiere of Skylight Films' Ricky Lazio Jr., F.B.I., a family action flick shot in and around London.

While Christopher

Fazio — the film's 16-year-old star — hails from Sarnia, several local actors earned main roles and somewhere between 150 and 200 extras were recruited from the London area for some scenes.

Much of the made-for-TV movie was filmed on the Thorndale estate of London Telecom founder Rob Freeman, the film's executive producer.

Tickets for the 4:30 p.m. showing are available in advance at onstagedirect.com.

● METRO

2 Targets coming to London

Masonville Place and Westmount Shopping Centre will be the locations for two Target stores coming to London in 2013, the American mega-retailer announced Thursday.

Target Corp. released a list of 24 Ontario stores that will serve as the company's new foothold as it expands into the Canadian market. It plans to open about 130 Target stores across Canada. ● METRO

Fewer DUI drivers busted

The percentage of drivers sanctioned after being stopped by police at Festive RIDE spotchecks decreased slightly last year.

About 20 per cent of the 7,000 motorists tested in the drunk-driving-awareness program in 2011 were either arrested or had their licences suspended.

In 2010, 22 per cent of the 9,000 drivers stopped were sanctioned.

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Innu band told to redo vote

The Federal Court of Canada has overturned a 2010 band-council election in the Labrador Innu community of Natuashish and ordered a new vote.

Justice Donald Rennie says there were major problems with the way the original vote was held.

The problems include short notice of the vote, a lack of control of the number of ballots printed, uncertainty about custody of the ballot boxes and a large number of spoiled ballots.

He says the only way to restore confidence in the process is to set aside the 2010 results and hold another election within three months.

The community is one of two Mushuau Innu First Nation communities in Labrador.

It lies on the northern coast of Labrador about 300 kilometres north of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

"I find that substantial problems pervaded this election," Rennie wrote in his decision.

The judge said the disputed election was called on 13 days notice, instead of the usual 21 to 30 days.

He said no new voters list was compiled, meaning some dead band members may have been listed among those eligible to cast ballots.

The official returning officer was hired only four days before the vote. And there were questions about control of the ballot boxes after the vote.

Finally, the judge called the number of spoiled ballots "unacceptably high."

"It cannot be said that the principles of fairness and impartiality were respected in the election process," Rennie concluded.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

First nation seeks aid

► Ottawa says Attawapiskat bills will be paid as soon as band co-operates

First Nations in the James Bay region of Northern Ontario say their housing crisis is deepening despite the federal government's recent response to Attawapiskat.

In a statement issued Thursday, the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation said it won't be able to make its January payroll unless the federal government shows more flexibility.

Many families are still living in tents and substandard shelters there. And now essential services such as education are at risk because the \$1.5 million earmarked for them has been placed in the hands of a government-appointed third party, according to a statement from the regional Mushkegowuk Council.

Neighbouring Cree communities along James Bay



► In this file photo, a tattered Canadian flag flies over a teepee in Attawapiskat, Ont.

are crying out for emergency help as well.

"With temperatures now in the minus 30s and 40s, the chiefs are now calling on the federal and provincial governments to take immediate action on the housing crisis in Fort Albany and Kashechewan as

well," the statement said.

The federal government contests almost every point in the council's statement.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said the third-party manager appointed by Ottawa to run Attawapiskat's finances will make sure all essential

services are running smoothly and the bills are paid — as soon as the band starts co-operating with him and giving him the information he needs.

"As was addressed in a letter on January 4, 2012 to Chief (Theresa) Spence, the third-party manager is ready to issue payroll cheques for essential services, such as teachers, and will do so as soon as he is provided with the necessary information from the chief and council," Duncan said in an emailed statement.

He said families no longer need to live in tents because the local healing lodge has been renovated. It now has running water, bathrooms and heat, and is ready to accept families who feel they need better shelter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

911 tape reveals tense moments at Texas school where teen was shot

A 911 recording reveals the tense moments in a Texas middle school when police confronted an eighth-grader who was brandishing a realistic-looking pellet gun and repeatedly ordered him to put the weapon down.

Over and over, officers can be heard telling 15-year-old Jaime Gonzalez to put the weapon on the floor. When he refused, they fatally shot the boy Wednesday at Cummings Middle School in Brownsville.

A six-minute recording of the 911 call that summoned police was obtained Thursday by the Brownsville Herald.

An assistant principal made the call. As officers arrive, she says Gonzalez is drawing the weapon. A moment later, police yell that Gonzalez is running through the hall.

Someone can be heard yelling that the student

YVETTE VELA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► The pellet gun the victim was holding when he was shot.

says he's willing to die. And an administrator is yelling, "Lock the door."

The weapon turned out to be a pellet gun that closely resembled the real thing. No one else was injured.

Gonzalez's parents demanded to know why officers took lethal action.

"Why was so much excess force used on a minor?" asked the boy's father, Jaime Gonzalez, Sr. "Three shots. Why not one that would bring him down?"

The older Gonzalez said

he had no idea where his son got the gun or why he brought it to school, adding: "We wouldn't give him a gift like that."

The boy's mother, Noralva Gonzalez, showed off a photo on her phone of a beaming Jaime in his drum-major uniform standing with his band instructors. Then she flipped through three close-up photos she took of bullet wounds in her son's body, including one in the back of his head.

"What happened was an injustice," she said angrily. "I know that my son wasn't perfect, but he was a great kid."

Interim police Chief Orlando Rodriguez said the teen "had plenty of opportunities to lower the gun and listen to the officers' orders." The chief said his officers acted to protect themselves and other students, firing three shots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bundle. Of Joy



► Solace Huxley Layton Campbell is seen shortly after being born in Toronto on Thursday.

HANDOUT/CANADIAN PRESS

New addition to Layton family

The Layton family has a new addition as of Thursday, as the late Jack Layton's daughter gave birth to a girl. Solace Huxley Layton Campbell was born at 2:15 a.m. Sarah Layton, the daughter of former NDP leader Jack Layton, who died in August, gave birth to the healthy baby girl, who weighed in at 9.4 pounds.

Officer dies after Utah shootout

Gunfire erupted as anti-drug police served a search warrant in a Utah neighbourhood, killing one officer and injuring five others and a suspect, authorities said.

Ogden police said in a statement early Thursday that agent Jared Francom died from his wounds following Wednesday night's shooting. Five police officers remain hospitalized

with serious to critical injuries. Ogden police say shooting suspect Matthew David Stewart is at a hospital under guard, with non-life-threatening injuries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mubarak should be hanged: Prosecutors

► Ousted Egyptian leader authorized use of live ammunition to kill protesters, lawyers charge ► Victims' families to testify on Monday

KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Protesters demand the death penalty for former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak at a rally in Cairo on Thursday.

Hosni Mubarak deserves to be hanged, prosecutors said Thursday, charging that the former Egyptian president bears full responsibility for the killing of some 800 protesters during last year's uprising against his rule.

At Mubarak's trial in Cairo, prosecutor Mustafa Khater gave a passionate speech demanding the death penalty for Mubarak, former interior minister Habib el-Adly and four of his police commanders.

"Retribution is the solu-

tion. Any fair judge must issue a death sentence for these defendants," said Khater, one of five prosecutors in the case.

His speech came on the last of three days of sessions in which the prosecution laid out its case, after months of testimony by witnesses, aiming to show that Mubarak and el-Adly — who was in charge of the police — ordered security forces to use deadly force against protesters.

For separate corruption charges levelled against Mubarak and his sons Alaa

"We feel the spirits of the martyrs flying over this hall of sacred justice, and those who lost their sight by the bullets of the defendants are stumbling around it to reach the judge and demand fair retribution from those who attacked them."

PROSECUTOR MUSTAFA KHATER

and Gamal, Khater demanded prison sentences with hard labour. Two police commanders charged with gross negligence face prison terms.

But some observers were skeptical that the death sentence would ever be carried out if Mubarak is convicted. A conviction would be followed by an appeals process that the ailing 83-year-old's lawyer would likely draw out, and Egypt's military rulers have the power to veto a death sentence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reform not a sure thing: Suu Kyi

KHIN MAUNG WIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Aung San Suu Kyi

Democratic reforms begun by Myanmar's nominally civilian government are not "unstoppable" and will succeed only if the powerful military accepts the changes, opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi warned on Thursday.

But she added she is cautiously optimistic more progress can be made.

"I wouldn't say that there are many dangers, but I wouldn't say that it is unstoppable, either," she said.

"I am concerned about how much support there is in the military for changes. In the end, that's the most important factor, how far the military are prepared to co-operate with reform principles."

Suu Kyi spoke as she and her National League for Democracy moved closer to full participation in mainstream electoral politics. The government approved the party's registration Thursday, and the NLD can now pick candidates to run in byelections on April 1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VILLAGE WARNED OF DANGER

At least 25 dead in Philippines landslide

A landslide tore through a tiny gold-mining village in the southern Philippines on Thursday, killing 25 people and burying more than 100 more, months after the government warned residents the mountain was certain to crumble.

The mountainside in

Napnap village in Pantukan township collapsed at about 3 a.m., sweeping away about 50 houses, shanties and other buildings, officials said. A fissure in the mountain discovered last year was made worse by heavy rains and continuous mining in the saturated ground.

Thousands of poor Filipinos dig and pan for gold in the area, despite the dangers of largely unregulated mining. The tunnels are often unstable and landslides and accidents are common. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bombings target Iraqi Shiites

An apparently co-ordinated wave of bombings targeting Shiite Muslims killed at least 78 people in Iraq on Thursday, the second large-scale assault by militants since U.S. forces pulled out last month.

The attacks, believed to have been carried out by Sunni insurgents, raised fears of a return to the Sunni-Shiite bloodshed that pushed Iraq to the brink of civil war a few years ago. The bombings were the deadliest in the country in more than a year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don't block oil route: U.K. to Iran

Any attempt by Iran to block the Strait of Hormuz would be illegal and unsuccessful, Britain's defence secretary Philip Hammond warned on Thursday, hinting at a robust international response to Iranian threats to close the route.

Hammond made the comment during a visit to the Pentagon in Washington. He said the presence of British and American naval ships in the Persian Gulf would ensure the oil passageway is kept open for trade. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► Political prisoners are assembled for a photo by Syria's official news agency, SANA, before their release in Damascus on Thursday.



Syria frees more prisoners

Syrian authorities have released 552 political prisoners, state TV reported Thursday, in what appeared to be another gesture to comply with the Arab League plan to end the regime's nine-month-old crackdown on dissent.

The plan requires President Bashar Assad's regime to remove security forces from cities, start talks with

opposition leaders and free political prisoners. Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby said the regime has released about 3,500 detainees in recent weeks.

But activists said Syria is still holding at least 25,000 political prisoners, and they accused the regime of torturing hundreds of people to death in overcrowded prisons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music. Albums

► Adele performs at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles last August. The singer's album, 21, which sold 5.8 million copies, helped boost U.S. album sales, according to Nielsen SoundScan.



Digital sales play catch-up

U.S. album sales rose more than three per cent last year to 458 million, for the first gain since 2004 — a sign that rising digital sales are finally stemming the decade-long decline of CDs.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE





Euro decline dampens spirits on debt crisis

The spectre of Europe's debt crisis returned Thursday after a brief respite, as bank stocks fell sharply on worries about losses on government debt and a French bond auction drew lacklustre demand from investors.

Financial stocks slumped as it became clear banks would have trouble raising billions in new capital in coming months. In Italy, trading in UniCredit shares was halted after they lost a quarter of their value since Wednesday, when the bank announced it had to offer huge discounts to investors to attract new capital.

The banks need the money to cover potential losses on government debt, whose value has plummeted across most of Europe in recent months on fear of defaults. Many countries in the region have to roll over billions in debt. The bad news helped weaken sentiment in markets, pushing the euro to \$1.2798, a 15-month low against the dollar. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Market moment

TSX	Dollar
	
+ 10.93 (12,237.40)	- 0.65¢ (98.13¢ US)
OIL	Natural gas
	
- 1.41¢ US (\$101.81 US)	\$2.98 (- 12¢)
	Gold \$1,620.10 (+ \$7.40)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE THAN MATCHUPS ...

BATTLES

RED WINGS VS COYOTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 @ 7:30 PM
BOBBLEHEAD THURSDAY
First 7,500 fans get a Danny Cleary Bobblehead courtesy of RAM

RED WINGS VS SABRES
MONDAY, JANUARY 16 @ 7:30 PM
MILITARY MONDAY
First 10,000 fans get a dog tag courtesy of 3 Dimensional Services

RED WINGS VS BLUE JACKETS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 @ 7:00 PM
KIDS NIGHT
First 2,500 kids get a American Ericsson Growth Poster courtesy of Medjet

RED WINGS VS BLUES
MONDAY, JANUARY 23 @ 7:30 PM
MILITARY MONDAY
First 10,000 fans get a dog tag courtesy of 3 Dimensional Services



It's more than hockey.

313.396.7575 - DETROITREDWINGS.COM

Early retirement? Better think again

► Average worker wants to retire by 61, while 25- to 30-year-olds aim for age 59, study found ► Savings is key as only about four out of 10 Canadians have a company pension

Canadians appear to be on a collision course with harsh reality when it comes to their increasingly unrealistic expectations for retiring early and comfortably.

With the underfunding in pension plans and rising household debt, a new TD Bank survey suggests Canadians haven't adjusted their retirement notions.

"Early retirement is only achievable if you take steps needed to get there," said Cynthia Caskey of TD Waterhouse.

The online survey of 1,006 shows six in 10 Canadians have less than \$100,000 in household assets, not counting any home equity, while 16 per cent have no assets at all. It also found that 44 per cent of respondents believe they will have debt when they retire, and 13 per cent said their debt will be significant. That coincides with the latest Statistics Canada data showing household debt has reached a record 153 per cent of disposable income, although 70 per cent of that is in mortgages.

"For some Canadians, it's not going to be about choice, they will have to work past age 65 paying off debt or working longer hours to afford their retirement," said Caskey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Unscathed airlines gear up for 2012

Canada's largest airlines ended 2011 seemingly untouched by global economic concerns as they brace for a slow domestic economy recovery and higher fuel prices this year. WestJet and regional carrier Porter Airlines reported record load factors in December while Air Canada, the country's largest carrier, saw its passenger traffic grow slightly from a year ago. International cargo traffic is down as a result of Europe's debt crisis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama shares vision of 'leaner' U.S. military

HARAZ N. GHANBARI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► U.S. President Barack Obama and Defence Secretary Leon Panetta share a laugh after the president spoke on the Defence Strategic Review Thursday at the Pentagon.



Looking beyond the wars he inherited, President Barack Obama on Thursday launched a reshaping and shrinking of the military. He vowed to preserve U.S. pre-eminence even as the Army and Marine Corps shed troops and the administration considers reducing its nuclear weapons.

The changes won't come without risk, Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said. But he called it acceptable and, because of budget restraints, inevitable.

At the Pentagon, Obama said the U.S. is "turning a page" after having killed Osama bin Laden, withdrawn troops from Iraq and begun to wind down the war in Afghanistan. He outlined a vision for the future that some Republican lawmakers quickly dubbed wrong-headed.

"Our military will be leaner, but the world must know the United States is going to maintain our military superiority," Obama said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

STEVE JOBS IMMORTALIZED IN 12 INCHES OF PLASTIC

THE METRO LIST

NEIL MORTON
METRO



1 Kate turns big 3-0: Her name is already forecast to be the most-used word in social media this year, and watch how much attention Kate gets next Monday (Jan. 9) when the duchess turns 30. What would be the icing on the cake? When Will and Kate announce they're having a baby. Twitter would completely melt.

2 Rob Schneider: His new comedy, Rob, airs next week (Jan. 12). It's about a newlywed dealing with his wife's close-knit Mexican-American family. TV critic Jace Jacob watched the pilot and live-tweeted his disdain for it. Sample tweet from @televisionary: "If Hell exists, it would be watching the Rob pilot over and over again for eternity. And I am only two minutes in..." Must-watch.

3 @RupertMurdoch: Eighty-year-old media mogul Rupert Murdoch opened his (rather boring) Twitter account over the New Year's holiday and already has more than 100,000 followers. Murdoch, whose media empire, News Corp., has been under increased scrutiny due to phone hacking at his U.K. newspapers, better hope his Twitter account never gets hacked.

4 Team Canada: Our juniors were getting smoked 6-1 in the semifinal by Russia at the Calgary Saddledome, and staged what was almost an epic comeback, scoring four goals in the third and hitting a post late before falling short 6-5. Even though they didn't make the final, they can hold their heads high after that valiant comeback. 2013 will be their golden year.

5 Twins born a year apart: In a story gone viral this week, a Minneapolis couple welcomed twins six hours apart, with a boy, Beckett, born 6:40 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2011, and a girl, Freya, Jan. 1, 2012, at 12:26 a.m. New Year's Day. This means a) separate birthdays for both, and b) whenever the siblings fight, Beckett can go, "Yo, I'm a year older."

6 Butt out: A giant 12-foot acrylic cigarette butt was erected in Toronto Tuesday as The Canadian Cancer Society launched its seventh annual Driven to Quit Challenge. If you're thinking of quitting, try it. I've been clean from the cancer sticks for over 10 years. All you need is 20 seconds of insane courage. And willpower.

7 Steve Jobs action figure: A Chinese toy company called Incons is releasing a detailed 12-inch action figure of Jobs wearing his signature black turtleneck, rimless glasses and blue jeans. Due for U.S. release late February (if Apple gives permission), word is they're getting tons of pre-orders. Accessories such as iPhone, iPad and iPod are not included!

8 4,700 self-portraits: For 14 years, Canadian photographer Jeff Harris has been doing an epic art project whereby he takes a self-portrait each day and then posts it on his website to take his readers along on his adventures. Think of it as his personal diary, but in photos. Check it out at jeffharris.org

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (@neilmorton).



Register at
metropolitanpanel.ca
and take the quick poll

Should suburban commuters pay
higher rates for downtown parking?

67%
NO. IT'S UNFAIR
AND WOULD HARM
DOWNTOWN
BUSINESSES



33%
YES. THEY USE
CITY
INFRASTRUCTURE
WITHOUT
HELPING TO PAY
FOR UPKEEP

Local tweets



- ▶ **@Call_The_Office:** Speed trap: Oxford westbound at Colborne. Look out #ldnont
- ▶ **@CDNSportySmurf:** Caterpillar can kiss our butts - a good portion of that 1B profit was from #EMD #ldnont
- ▶ **@BexFry:** i need socks... :(and a professional motivational coach for new years resolutions in #ldnont Anyone have any ideas?
- ▶ **@GreenAndGold920:** Can't wait to get back to #uwo with @ctolson1 @SirMetcalf
- ▶ **@dntdreamitsovr:** Have de-
- ▶ **@juliaclobbarts:** Commander Salamander is closing!?!? Super sad faaaace!
- ▶ **@smiileyyface:** #thatwest-ernmomentwhen you get excited when you see an event on Facebook but realize you have night classes that day :(#uwo
- ▶ **@JLito6:** the new #fanshawe commercial has an interracial couple! I find this is to be hilarious yet totally awesome!

A writing exam, Japanese-style

NEWS PICTURES/REX FEATURES

Daily Zoom



Calligraphy contest honours Japan's tsunami victims

DISASTER. Around the world, people ring bells or shoot fireworks to welcome the new year, but in Japan they celebrate by showing off their brushwork. Thousands of contestants took part in Japan's 48th annual New

Year Calligraphy Contest. About 3,000 filled the Nippon Budokan indoor arena for the event.

Calligraphers this year were encouraged to write banners of well wishes for those affected by last year's devastating earth-

quake and tsunami.

"My banner reads 'Strong will' — for those hit by the disaster. I also wish an early spring will arrive there," said Kuramochi Jun, a 12-year-old student.

● METRO WORLD NEWS

New-year banners

- ▶ "The heart waits for spring" Haru matsu kokoro (春待つ心)
- ▶ "Strong will" Tsuyoi ishi (強い意志)
- ▶ "The sky of the New Year" Shinnen no sora (新年の空)

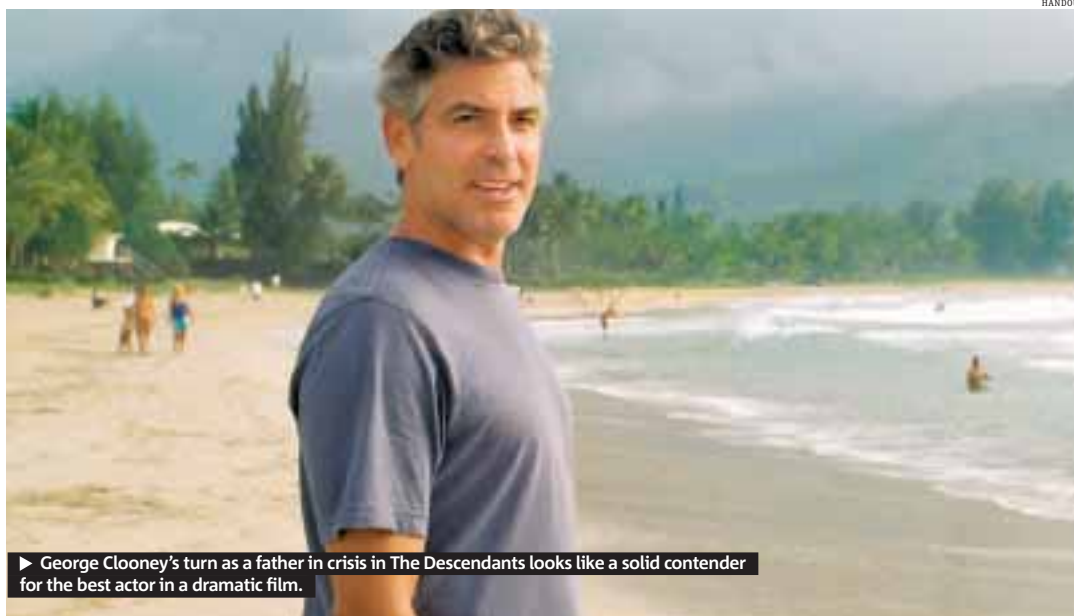


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Synopsis

Award season is upon us. Soon Hollywood will hand out more gold than Fort Knox on free double day. This week the Reel Guys have a look at the first major awards, the Golden Globes.



► George Clooney's turn as a father in crisis in *The Descendants* looks like a solid contender for the best actor in a dramatic film.

Reel Guys

**RICHARD
CROUSE &
MARK
BRESLIN**



Going for the gold

► Breslin and Crouse make their picks for the Golden Globes ► Is it Clooney's year?

Richard: Mark, I enjoyed bits and pieces of a lot of movies in 2011 so choosing winners in the Golden Globe Best Movie categories is giving me a bit of a headache. In the drama category I'll have to go with *Moneyball* as the film that hit it out of the park. As for comedy or musical it's a toss up between *The Artist*, which was the best time I had at the movies overall this year, and *Bridesmaids*, which made me laugh more than any movie this year. You?

Mark: Yes, Richard, *Moneyball* was a fine film. But I can't believe it will take away any top prizes be-

cause it just lacked any real emotional content — and the ending, while true to life, was a bit of a dud. I think it's George Clooney's year, and that *The Descendants* is the film to beat in the drama category. As for comedy, *Bridesmaids* is the funniest movie of the year, although *The Artist* is a more audacious achievement. I notice its director is nominated in that category, and I hope he wins. He made me feel like I was in 1928!

RC: I think you're right about Clooney. He brings with him the kind of star power the Globes crave for their broadcast. *The Artist*,

not so much. With that in mind it seems likely Meryl Streep will take the Globe for best dramatic actress for *The Iron Lady*. Her mix of star power and chops almost guarantees a win. As for Comedy or Drama, I'd like to see Kristen Wiig take it for *Bridesmaids*. Of all the nominees it is the only full-on comedic performance.

MB: You're right about La Streep. Frankly, she won it the day the trailer aired. And with Michelle Williams shunted into the comedy category, there's little competition for her. And although it's a real stretch to call Williams' Monroe homage 'comedy',

her only competition will be Charlize Theron's dress. Kristin Wiig is a comedic genius — the best thing since Carol Burnett — but I think her bid will be scuttled by the movie's poop jokes. Unfair, perhaps, but pure comedy scares votes away — it just doesn't seem like acting.

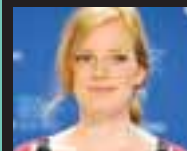
RC: One movie I think is a lock is the hands-down favourite for Best Foreign Film, *A Separation*. I'll be shocked if this doesn't win.

MB: Haven't seen it, but the buzz has been deafening. As long as *Cars 2* doesn't win for Best Animated Picture, I'll be a happy man.

2

scene

Scene in brief



Actress-turned-director Sarah Polley is adapting Margaret Atwood's award-winning novel *Alias Grace* for the big screen. The project once again pairs the Toronto filmmaker with an acclaimed Canadian writer — Polley's celebrated directorial debut *Away From Her* was based on Alice Munro's short story *The Bear Came Over the Mountain*.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



Hugh Jackman plans his Broadway return as Harry Houdini in a musical by Aaron Sorkin.

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Ladies Night GAMES & TRIVIA
Friday | 5pm-10:30pm
Hall of Flame firefighters



OCO Stage OCO
Organic Council of Ontario
Saturday | Noon-10:30pm
Live entertainment and fun cooking demos from great local talent..



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The biggest films

► It's a year of comic books, literary adaptations and two Snow Whites ► Get popcorn and get ready for 2012

ALL PHOTOS: HANDOUT

1 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey



Peter Jackson and old friends reunite in this prequel, out next December.

Brave

Pixar seemed to take 2011 off with Cars 2 — while it would've been fine for most animation studios, it wasn't quite up to Pixar standards. Now, the company behind Toy Story and Up looks to return to form with their latest, the Scotland-set Brave, about a feisty lass

to slay dragons and undo a curse to save her people. June.



Princess Merida

(Kelly Macdonald) looking

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter and World War Z

In the first, due in June, the secret vampire-slaying past of America's 16th president is revealed. But blood-suckers aren't the only ghouls getting a workout. Based on the bestselling book by Max (son of Mel) Brooks, World War Z features Brad Pitt and Lost star Matthew Fox facing the aftermath of a worldwide zombie apocalypse. Fun for the whole family at holiday time! December.



Pitt

Prometheus

While he's gone off to make all sorts of different types of films — most of them starring Russell Crowe — Ridley Scott is still revered for his pair of sci-fi masterpieces, Alien and Blade Runner. With Prometheus, he returns to the genre with a big, spooky space flick that ties in somehow to the Alien franchise — just don't call it a prequel. And if that's not enough to get you excited, how about a cast including Michael Fassbender, Charlize Theron and Idris Elba? June.



Fassbender at right

The Dark Knight Rises

We're just as curious to see how Christopher Nolan rounds out his trilogy of Batman films — he insists this is the final chapter — as we are to see if the Dark Knight Rises can come close to matching the \$1 billion 2008's the Dark Knight pulled in worldwide. Christian Bale is back as Batman, along with Michael Caine as Alfred and Gary Oldman as Commissioner Gordon. They're joined by newcomers Tom Hardy (as Bane) and Catwoman Anne Hathaway. (July)



Bale

Men In Black 3

Call it morbid curiosity more than anticipation, but we can't wait to see what the big, bloated and totally unnecessary new chapter in the Men in Black franchise looks like. Will viewers be able to watch Will Smith run around

New York City without thinking of his massive two-story trailer that angered neighbours? In the film, he reteams with Tommy Lee Jones, and time travels, meeting newbie Josh Brodin (playing a young Jones). (May)

The Amazing Spider-Man

Exactly 10 years after Tobey Maguire first crawled up his first wall, the web-slinger saga is starting over, this time with Andrew Garfield (the Social Network) suiting up as Spider-Man and director Marc Webb (500 Days of Summer) behind the camera. The new version promises to be darker and grittier than the last run, but with Spider-Man 3 just five years behind it, will audiences be interested in the franchise reboot? July.



Garfield

The Hunger Games and Twilight finale

With the Twilight saga wrapping up at the end of 2012, all eyes are on Lionsgate's adaptation of Suzanne Collins' bestselling teen dystopia to fill the void. There are three books in the Hunger Games series, but if the first movie is a hit, don't be surprised if the latter chapters start getting split up into multiple films. Jennifer Lawrence stars. (March)



Lawrence

The Avengers & Skyfall

After great turns in their own films in 2011, Captain America (Chris Evans) and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) join up with Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) for the ensemble flick Marvel Studios has been building to since Samuel L. Jackson popped up after the credits of 2008's Iron Man. May. And finally, James Bond fans rejoice, the latest 007 adventure went into production a few weeks ago after a few financial hiccups. Daniel Craig reprises his role as the British super-spy. October.

Show White vs. Snow White

Mirror Mirror

Judging by the first trailer, this film by Tarsem Singh could be high-camp fun or...not. Evil Queen Julia Roberts and sidekick Nathan Lane fight over scraps of scenery and Lily Collins (as Snow White) corrals sass-talking dwarves. March

Snow White

and the Huntsman
Twilight star Kristen Stewart stars in this second Snow White adaptation, also starring Chris 'Thor' Hemsworth and Charlize 'Wicked Witch' Theron. It's supposed to be a "darker and more dangerous" version of the fairy tale. June.

● NED EHRBAR

4 to watch

GINA CARANO

How does a mixed martial-artist end up as the lead in a Steven Soderbergh indie spy thriller? And with a supporting cast that includes acting heavyweights Ewan McGregor, Michael Fassbender and Michael Douglas? She kicks ass, obviously.



Did you know?

"It's so satisfying watching her beat the (expletive) out of the cast," Soderbergh told The

Playlist blog about Carano.

He caught her on TV one night and thought, Why has no one made a movie with her?

ELIZABETH OLSEN

The Olsen Twins' younger sister got a major headstart in 2011 with her impressive performance in indie cult film *Martha Marcy May Marlene* and this thoughtful, wide-eyed actress will continue the momentum with *Liberal Arts*, written and directed by How I Met Your Mother star Josh Radnor. She'll also appear in the horror flick *Silent House* (March 9) and paranormal thriller *Red Lights* alongside Robert De Niro and Cillian Murphy.



LONDON

Mustang Drive-In - London
2551 Wilton Grove Rd.,
519-644-1160
Listings not available at press time.

Hyland Cinema
240 Wharnclyffe Road
South, 519-913-0313

Le Havre (PG) Fri 5:10 Sat 3 Sun 7
Martha Marcy May Marlene (14A) Fri 7
Sat 9 Sun 5:10 Mon 5 Tue 9 Wed 3:10 Thu 9:10
My Week With Marilyn (14A) Fri 1-9 Sat 1-7
Sun 1-8:45 Mon 3:10-9:10 Tue 3:10-7:10
Wed 1-9 Thu 1-5:10

The Way (14A) Fri 3 Sat 5 Sun 3 Mon 1-7 Tue 1-5
Wed 5 Thu 3-7
Rainbow Cinemas London
355 Wellington St., 519-434-3073

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri 1:10-3:40
7:20-9:40 Sat 1:10-7:20-9:40 Sun-Thu 1:10-3:40
7:20-9:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:30-7-9
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:7-30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-7:10-9:50
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:35
War Horse (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:45
We Bought a Zoo (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-7:05-9:40

Western Film
Room 340, UCC Building
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri-Sun

Wellington 8 Cinemas
983 Wellington Rd. S, 519-685-2529

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:20-6:50 Mon-Thu 6:50
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-3:30-7:15-9:40
Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Devil Inside (STC) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:20-

9:40 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:40
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:50-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:15-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:50
War Horse (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:45
We Bought a Zoo (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:7-10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10

Cineplex Odeon
Westmount & VIP
Cinemas

755 Wonderland Road
South, 519-474-2796

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:30 Sun 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:15
Mon 6:30-9:15 Tue 3:40-6:30-9:15 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:15
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sat 12:25-4:50-7:20-9:40
Sun 1:40-4:10-6:50-9:05 Mon 6:50-9:05 Tue 4:10-6:50-9:05 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:05

The Bridge on the River Kwai (STC) Wed 7
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Sat 11:45-3:05-6:30-10 Sun 12:40-4:20-7:45
Mon 7:45 Tue 4:20-7:45 Wed-Thu 7:45 Fri-Sat 12:20-3:40-7:10-10 Sun 1:30-4:50-8:15 Mon 8:15 Tue 4:50-8:15 Wed-Thu 8:15

Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-4:7-30-10:30 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:05 Mon 7:15-10:05 Tue 4:20-7:15-10:05 Wed-Thu 7:15-10:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:30-6:50-10:10 Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40 Mon 6:40-9:40 Tue 3:30-6:40-9:40
Wed-Thu 6:40-9:40 Fri-Sat 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:40 Sun 1:47-9:55 Mon 7:30-10:40 Tue 4:7-9:55 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:40

New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Sat 1:40-7:40-10:40 Sun 1:20-4:40-7:20-10:20 Mon 7:20-10:20 Tue 4:40-7:20-10:20 Wed 10:20 Thu 7:20-10:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:20 Sun 1:47-9:50 Mon 7:50 Tue 4:7-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:50-9:50 Fri-Sat 11:50-3:10-6:30-9:30 Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:25 Mon 6:30-9:25 Tue 3:30-6:30-9:25 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening

Wed 1
We Bought a Zoo (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:40-7:50 Sun 12:50-3:50-7:10-10 Tue 3:50-7:10-10 Wed-Thu 7:10-10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
SilverCity London
1680 Richmond St., 519-673-4125

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:30-8:10-10:30 Mon 1:25-3:50-7:10-9:50 Tue-Wed 1:25-3:50-6:50-9:30 Thu 12:25-3:50-6:50-9:30

The Adventures of Tintin: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55 Mon-Thu 1

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-1:25-2:55-3:30-5:50-5:50 Mon-Thu 1:10-1:15-3:20-3:25

The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 1:40-3:50-6:05-8:35-10:45 Sun 1:40-3:50-6:05-8:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:30-3:35-7:35-9:45

The Devil Inside (STC) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:10-3:40-6:20-10:40 No Passes Sun 1:10-3:40-6:20-10:30 No Passes Mon 1:55-4:05-7:25-9:40 No Passes Tue 1:55-4:05-7:25-9:55 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:55-4:05-7:25-9:40

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Sat 12:05-3:25-6:50-10:15 Sun 12:05-3:25-6:50-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:40-8

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Fri-Sat 1:50-2:05-8:15-11 Sun 1:40-3:30-7:10-10 Mon 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:40

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 2:15-7:30-10:30 Mon 4:7-10 Tue 4:7-10 Wed-Thu 4:7-10

New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:50-7:45-10:25 Mon 1:50-4:35-7:20-9:55 Tue 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05 Wed 1:45-7:20-9:55 Thu 1:50-4:35-7:20-9:55

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Sat 12:15-2:55-5:35-8:15-11 Sun 1:40-7:15-10:20 Mon 1:35-4:15-7:20-10 Tue 1:35-4:15-7:20-10:15 Wed-Thu 1:35-4:15-7:20-10
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sat 8:30-10:40 Sun 8:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:45-9:50

War Horse (PG) Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-7:20-10:45 Sun 1:05-4:10-7:20-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:40-8:05

We Bought a Zoo (PG) Fri-Sat 2:45-7:55-10:45 Sun 1:45-7:05-9:55 Mon 1:25-4:15-7:05-9:55 Tue 1:25-4:15-7:05-10 Wed 4:15-7:05-9:55 Wed 1:25-4:15-7:05-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

Young Adult (14A) Fri-Sun 7:45-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35

LILY COLLINS

The spawn of Sussudio impresario Phil Collins already had her coming out party in 2011 with roles in *Abduction* and *Priest*. This year the 22-year-old has a starring role in Tarsem Singh's lighthearted take on the Snow White fairytale in *Mirror Mirror* (March 16th) co-starring Julia Roberts, along with prominent roles in The English Teacher co-starring Julianne Moore and sci-fi film *The Mortal Instrument*.

ANDREA RISEBOROUGH

Thank the Material Girl herself, Madonna, for bringing this English Rose to the forefront in 2012. Riseborough will start off the year with her lauded performance in *Madge*-directed feature *W.E.* (Feb. 3) as controversial paramour to King Edward the 8th, Wallis Simpson. She'll stay at the forefront with IRA thriller *Shadow Dancer*, as well as *Disconnect*, co-starring True Blood babe Alexander Skarsgard and Jason Bateman — finishing with *Welcome to the Punch*.

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Tues. Jan 10th 7:00-8:00pm

Sat. Jan 14th 9:00-10:00am

456 Southdale Rd (near Jaina)

Tues. Jan 10th 7:30-8:30pm

Mon. Jan 16th 11:00-noon

St.Judes Anglican Church (Adelaide & Fanshawe Pk Rd)

Wed. Jan 11th 7:30-9:30pm

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'The show is going to be a success'

► Mega-author John Grisham says new TV show based on *The Firm* is 'pure fun' ► Debuts Sunday on Global

John Grisham says his family members still measure time in terms of "B.F." and "A.F." — before and after the publication of his 1991 page-turner *The Firm*.

After all, the novel — about a young legal eagle who takes on a mob-riddled Memphis law firm — sold millions of copies, spawned a hit Tom Cruise movie, and allowed Grisham to quit his job as a lawyer and become a full-time writer with a rabid fanbase that still eagerly awaits his books.

Given that astounding popularity, the author doesn't sound like he's losing any sleep over how viewers will receive *The Firm* TV series, debuting Sunday on Global.

"I'm not worried because I'm convinced the show is going to be a success. But also, personally, I've had so



► The cast of *The Firm*.

much success because of that one book that nothing could, you know, worry me about it now," Grisham said in a recent interview.

"What we're doing now ... to me is just pure fun to watch it on TV."

The author's stamp of approval is all over the Toronto-shot series, which picks up 10 years after lawyer Mitch McDeere and

his wife Abby entered the witness protection program at the conclusion of *The Firm*.

Grisham still sounds stung by the "painful experience" of adapting his 1993 thriller *The Client* for TV (he calls the 1995 effort a "dreadful show") and had not considered small-screen treatment for *The Firm* until he read the script from

Lukas Reiter, who has worked on *Boston Legal*, *Law & Order* and *The Practice*.

"For me I'm so looking forward to January the 8th to sit back with my family and watch (the two-hour pilot) of *The Firm*," said Grisham. "I'm not worried about success or failure — I want to see (it) because of all the hard work that Luke

and the cast and crew have put into it and it deserves a good audience — but I'm not worried about them."

Grisham, an executive producer on the new show, says he doesn't read the script for every episode but passes along "big ideas" about the direction the series might take.

And while he doesn't dwell on a book once he's done writing it, he likes where *The Firm* TV show has taken his characters.

"When I was finished with Mitch and Abby, I was, you know, as a creator, I was done with them," he said.

"The cool thing about the TV show is that each week you get to watch Mitch in action as a real lawyer with different cases. And that's what I've always wanted to see on television." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Cast

- Actor Josh Lucas landed the role of Mitch. His co-stars will include Molly Parker as Abby, Callum Keith Rennie as Mitch's brother, Ray, and Juliette Lewis as secretary Tammy.
- Lucas says working with this cast was a big draw for him. "I love this cast, it's family to me," he said.
- Lucas was particularly attracted by the idea of working with Cape Fear star Lewis, whom he called one of his "favourite actresses on Earth."
- For her part, Lewis said the job on *The Firm* came "out of the blue." She said she ultimately accepted the role of Tammy because so many interesting projects have morphed from the movie theatre to the small screen.

Making bombs and books

Actress-turned-author Meg Tilly hasn't left the books behind with her return to TV in *Bomb Girls*.

Penguin says it's publishing Tilly's new young adult novel, *A Taste of Heaven*, in early 2013.

The story centres on fourth-grader Madison Stokes, whose new best friend reveals a secret that puts Madison in an ethical quandary.

The Agnes of God star largely retreated from film and TV in the last 15 years.

She carved out a new identity as an author, with books including 2010's *Gemma* (St. Martin's Press), 2007's *Porcupine*, (Tundra/McClelland & Stewart) and 1994's *Singing Songs* (Dutton).

Tilly, who also appeared in the seminal '80s ensemble *The Big Chill*, stars in Global's new six-part miniseries *Bomb Girls*. It's about a group of women who work in a munitions factory during the Second World War.

Tilly returned to acting last summer with an acclaimed theatre performance as Martha in *Who's*



► Meg Tilly in a scene from *Bomb Girls*.

Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

She's next set to star in Tarragon Theatre's production of *The Real*

World? by Michel Tremblay. That's set to mount in April in Toronto. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

TV Picks

Which store is the worst?

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Friday night's instalment of the Canadian investigative consumer show *Marketplace* should resonate with anyone who's had to face a customer service counter to return a gift from the holidays.

Titled Canada's Worst Customer Service: The Store Edition, the episode reveals frustrating shopping experiences captured on hidden camera.

It also features the results of a national survey of Canadians asking which stores are the worst. (CBC)

Poutine and gourmet fries: Time to break that diet

FOOD. Debating Friday, the new Canadian series *You Gotta Eat Here* will delight those who enjoy a good greasy spoon — and torture those who've

started a weight-loss New Year's resolution.

Host John Catucci goes across Canada in search of popular diners putting their own twist on traditional comfort food.

In these first two episodes, he visits a poutine place, a gourmet fries diner, a burger joint and an Eggs Benedict bistro. (Food Network Canada)



► Guy Pearce in *Memento*.

Cancel your plans for Saturday night

DOUBLE BILL. Showcase provides two good reasons to stay in Saturday: *No Country for Old Men* followed by *Memento*.

The first film is the

2007 Coen brothers' dusty crime thriller that won four Oscars, including best picture and best adapted screenplay (it's based on the novel by Cormac McCarthy).

Javier Bardem also won the golden statuette for his chilling performance as a hitman in *West Texas*.

Then in the 2000 mind-bender *Memento*, which got two Oscar nominations, Guy Pearce plays a man who suffers from memory loss as he hunts for the person he thinks killed his wife.

Live from New York ...

SNL. The last episode of Saturday Night Live with Jimmy Fallon and Michael Bublé was top-notch and will be hard to beat.

But this Saturday's host, former NBA star Charles Barkley, has been on the show twice before and should prove a strong contender.

The musical guest is Kelly Clarkson, who recently released the album *Stronger*. (Global) **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Russell Brand just can't tell a lie

► Katy Perry told she 'wasn't that funny' by husband

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONews.ca



Katy Perry was reportedly blindsided by Russell Brand's divorce filing, but according to sources close to the singer there was plenty of evidence he was losing interest, according to Us Weekly.

"There were so many times when he wasn't there," a source says, offering the last night of Perry's tour in November as an example: "He was totally uninterested and seemed annoyed he was there. I don't think he sat through one song."

And then there was Brand's response to her



► Katy Perry

Saturday Night Live hosting stint in December.

Perry reportedly begged Brand to appear in a skit on the episode, but he declined and stayed in L.A. instead. And after it aired?

"He told her that she wasn't that funny," the source says. "That really

hurt."

But, um, he was right? It's hard to sit through a Katy Perry concert and she was Nancy Kerrigan-esque terrible on SNL.

Now, if only she would hit him with his own medicine and tell him to buy a bigger pair of pants.

20-minute make out session for Cooper, Saldana

Rumours about Bradley Cooper and his Words co-star Zoe Saldana getting close apparently had some truth to them, as the pair were spotted getting very cosy at a 1940s-themed New Year's Eve party in Bel Air, according to Us Weekly.

"They were making out for 20 minutes," a source says. And while they may be officially keeping each other's company, Saldana is reportedly hesitant to let things get too serious too soon.

"They're dating, but Zoe just left an engagement," says the source. "She's just looking to have fun."

► METRO



► Bradley Cooper

Demi 'not worthy of being loved'?

Demi Moore admits that her split from Ashton Kutcher has left her shaken and insecure.

"What scares me is that I'm going to ultimately find out at the end of my life that I'm really not lovable, that I'm not worthy of being loved," she tells Harper's Bazaar in a candid interview, adding that she fears finding out "that there's something fundamentally wrong with me and

that I wasn't wanted here in the first place."

But Moore is moving forward, thanks to some profound advice.

"Somebody wrote something to me that said, 'Don't let your wounds make you become someone you're not.' That's really powerful. And not taking life too seriously," she says. Forget acting, can Demi write a self-help book? She is the new Oprah!

► METRO



Demi Moore



► Kanye West

'Ye has a lot on his mind

It's been a while since Kanye West has turned heads with his Twitter account, and it appears he's making up for lost time with a recent three-hour binge of microblogging about some big plans.

During the session, West discussed his new design company, Donda, which will "pick up where Steve Jobs left off," aiming "to help simplify and aesthetically improve everything we see hear, touch, taste and feel" and "dream of,

create, advertise and produce products driven equally by emotional want and utilitarian need. To marry our wants and needs."

West also discussed plans to serve as creative director for a new Jetsons film, design the next MTV Video Music Awards and fix America's educational system.

"I care about people who have never heard of me," West insists. "There are over 7 billion people on the planet now." ► METRO

Cancel the reunion

Despite hints of family togetherness and forgiveness over the holidays, Maria Shriver is not actually taking Arnold Schwarzenegger back, according to People magazine.

"The reports of a reconciliation are not true," a source says of the estranged couple who spent Christmas together with their children.

"Arnold and Maria will always come together when it comes to supporting and loving their children." ► METRO



► Arnold Schwarzenegger

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● METRO



Taste Canada seeks entries for culinary book awards under revamped categories.

Pasta perfection in a few simple steps

► These recipes offer tons of flavour, without putting in tons of effort

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



Using salsa as a base for sauces adds tons of flavour without a lot of effort. Look for fresh tortellini or small ravioli and choose your favourite filling of meat or cheese.

Preparation:

- 1 In nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat and cook onion, garlic and oregano for 5 minutes or until softened. Add salsa and bring to a simmer and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes.
- 2 Stir in ricotta, 2 tbsp (25 mL) of the parsley and pepper.
- 3 Meanwhile, in large pot of boiling salted water, cook tortellini for about

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp (5 mL) dried oregano
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) chunky medium salsa
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) ricotta cheese
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) chopped fresh parsley
- Pinch pepper
- 1 pkg (350 g) fresh cheese or meat tortellini pasta
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded mozzarella cheese (optional)

8 minutes or until they are tender but firm (al dente).

- 4 Drain and add to sauce and toss to coat. Serve immediately or alternatively scrape into shallow casserole and sprinkle with cheese. Broil for 2 minutes or until cheese is melted and golden. Sprinkle with remaining parsley.



► This recipe makes 4 to 6 servings.

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PETER ROCKWELL
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Where does the time go? My first column of the New Year has traditionally been dedicated to my boozy predictions for the next 12 months, and here they are.

In the wine world old will be new again. Italy began a comeback late last year and its European neighbours in France and Spain are destined to share in the resurgence of consumer love for classically designed wines.

New World grape crushers from Canada will broaden their fan base and Chilean winemakers will get the recognition they deserve.

Though premium vodka will rule the spirit world, I predict liqueurs will be the hard liquor breakout star with seemingly simple mixtures like the smooth and mouth-massaging combo of whiskey and honey that is Jack Daniel's Tennessee Honey (\$28.95 to \$29.99).

PETER ROCKWELL IS THE EVERYMAN'S WINE WRITER, WORKING IN THE LIQUOR INDUSTRY FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS AND TRAVELLING THE GLOBE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO FILL HIS GLASS AND PUT INTO WORDS.



Cooking with garlic

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) extra virgin olive oil
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) hot pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) dry white wine or chicken stock
- 1 lb (454 g) large raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) chopped fresh Italian parsley
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 8 oz (250 g) linguine or fettuccine pasta

Garlic is a healthy ingredient to use in cooking and it also plays a large part in flavouring this dish.

Look for shrimp in your grocer's freezer section and keep them in your

Garlic Shrimp Pasta



► This recipe makes 4 servings.

freezer to pull out for a great and easy dinner.

Preparation:

- 1 In large non-stick skillet, heat oil over medium heat and cook garlic and red pepper flakes for 1 minute or until garlic is starting to turn golden. Add wine and bring to boil. Add shrimp and cook for 4 minutes or

until shrimp are pink and firm. Add parsley and butter and cook until melted.

- 2 Meanwhile, in large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta for about 10 minutes or until al dente. Drain and add to shrimp mixture. Toss to coat with sauce.

● EMILY RICHARDS

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NFL playoff outsiders no more

► Post-season offers unique twist in 2012 with appearances from greenhorns Lions and Texans

Hey, Stranger.

Here's a playoff head-scratcher: Accompanying the New England Patriots, Green Bay Packers, Pittsburgh Steelers and New York Giants, are the Detroit Lions and Houston Texans.

On Saturday, the Texans kick off the NFL playoffs

hosting Cincinnati. It's merely their first post-season game in a franchise history spanning 10 seasons.

At night, the Lions, whose last trip to the playoffs came in 1999 — and whose last win was eight seasons before that — play

the Saints in New Orleans.

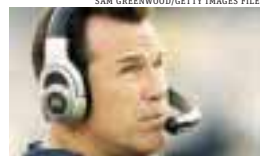
The lack of playoff familiarity doesn't seem to concern Detroit coach Jim Schwartz.

"We haven't always played our very best, I don't think any team ever does," Schwartz said. "But I think we've learned from

some of the things that have happened and I think we're a little bit more battle-tested, a little more seasoned."

It's Detroit's second go-round with the Saints in five weeks. The Lions fell 31-17 at the Superdome on Dec. 4.

Born in 2002, the Texans didn't have a winning record until last season. Their AFC South crown seemed destined when Peyton Manning was sidelined in Indianapolis, but they struggled down the stretch and lost their final three games. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



"Maybe that's a good thing that they don't have a lot of things to pull from. It's just, go play it like any other game."

HOUSTON COACH GARY KUBIAK ON THE TEXANS' FIRST PLAYOFF GAME

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Crossword

Across

1 Balaam's beast
4 Practice boxing
8 Nitwit
12 Make pigeon noises
13 — Alto
14 Pressing need?
15 Attention-getting, and much more
17 Progeny
18 Boorish types
19 Sanders' franchise
21 Firmament
22 X-rated
26 Busy places
29 Pigs' digs
30 Literary collection
31 Wading bird
32 More, to Manuel
33 Item on stage
34 Lair
35 Car wash option
36 South American plain
37 Strikingly unusual
39 One-name R&B artist
40 Zeta follower
41 Chronicles
45 Con game
48 Foolishly impractical
50 Novelist Ferber
51 Magazine founder
Eric
52 Eggs
53 Clothing store section
54 Dines
55 Buddhist sect
Down
1 In need of a massage
2 Protein bean
3 Last year's frosh
4 Ghosts 5 Sucker
6 Foreman foe
7 Pyrotechnician's supply
8 "Saturday Night Fever" genre
9 Raw rock
10 "Ulalume" writer
11 Conclusion
16 What attendance takers count
20 Saute
23 "GWTW" plantation
24 Aware of
25 Mob boss 26 Stash
27 Mountain goat
28 In — veritas
29 Lisa Simpson's instrument
32 Rhesus monkey
33 City north of Dallas 35 Humour
36 Bobcats' kin
38 33-Down's state
39 Upkeep (Abbr.)
42 The gamut
43 Not pretaped 44 Read cursorily
45 Height of



fashion? 46 Praise in verse

47 Massachusetts cape
49 Actress Hagen

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

9	7	2	3	4	5	8	6	1
6	4	8	9	1	2	5	7	3
5	3	1	6	7	8	4	9	2
1	9	5	4	2	3	8	8	7
4	8	3	7	9	6	1	2	5
2	6	7	5	8	1	9	3	4
7	5	6	1	3	9	2	4	8
8	1	4	2	6	7	3	5	9
3	2	9	8	5	4	7	1	6

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

My Meg, mucho amo te. Thank you for all the joy, fun and life you have brought to me in this time together. You are a charming and wonderful woman and I can't help but fall in love with you deeper every day. I look forward to many more wonderful seasons ahead mi amor.

FROM RAFF

Mark

If you look into my eyes you would know where my heart belongs. A smile so bright and feelings so strong, when ever I am around you I feel so strong, the days are brighter with thoughts of you and everything we are going to do. If you go for my sister, I will be there too.

FROM MI

Today's horoscope

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 Yes, you've been in one place too long. Yes, you need a change of scene.

♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 You could easily spend too much or in some other way damage your reputation for prudence today.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 You may go over the top and annoy someone you really ought to stay on good terms with. Think before you speak or push 'send'.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 A job worth doing is a job worth getting paid the going rate for, and as you do a better job than most you are entitled to add a little bit extra.

♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug. 23 Creative

activities will go well over the next 24 hours but they will go even better if you don't try to do everything yourself.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24- Sept. 22 It is always a mistake to compare yourself to other people and it would be even more of a mistake now.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Ideas will come thick and fast today but you won't achieve much if you try to follow up on each and every one of them.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 There is something you have overlooked and you desperately need to find out what it is and take appropriate action.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21

You may feel there is nothing you cannot do and you may be right, but you do in fact have limits like everyone else.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20

You may be on the verge of ending a project that does not seem to be going anywhere special but that would be a mistake.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Don't jump to conclusions and try to change things without consulting family and friends.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. If you get the chance to move up in the world you must take it.

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